

What is Claimed is:

1. A self-service machine comprising:
a secure enclosure;
a lock for securing the secure enclosure; and
a controller for controlling machine functionality and additionally the lock.
2. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a secure communications link interconnecting the lock and the controller.
3. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein (i) the secure communications link includes a decryptor that is provided in the secure enclosure, (ii) the controller includes means for encrypting a control command and sending the encrypted command to the decryptor, and (iii) the decryptor includes means for decrypting the control command and passing the decrypted command to the lock.
4. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lock comprises an electronic solenoid lock.
5. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller includes means for sending information relating to the lock to a central processor.
6. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least another lock, and wherein the controller includes means for controlling each of the locks.
7. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a detector for detecting tampering with the secure enclosure.

8. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the detector includes means for sending an alarm signal to the controller when tampering is detected.

9. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a spoiler mechanism for causing damage to the contents of the secure enclosure.

10. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the spoiler mechanism is actuatable in response to a control signal from the controller.

11. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 10, wherein the spoiler mechanism is actuated when tampering with the lock is detected.

12. A self-service machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the spoiler mechanism includes means for spraying fluid over the contents of the secure enclosure.

13. An automated teller machine (ATM) comprising:
a safe for storing money to be dispensed during ATM transactions;
a lock for securing the safe; and
an ATM processor for (i) controlling ATM functionality, and (ii) controlling operation of the lock.

14. An ATM according to claim 13, further comprising a secure communications link interconnecting the lock and the ATM processor.

15. An ATM according to claim 14, wherein (i) the secure communications link includes a decryptor that is provided in the safe, (ii) the ATM processor includes means for encrypting a control command and sending the encrypted command to the decryptor, and (iii) the decryptor includes means for decrypting the control command and passing the decrypted command to the lock.

16. An automated teller machine (ATM) comprising:
storage means for storing money to be dispensed during ATM transactions;
securing means for securing the storage means;
controlling means for controlling ATM functionality and operation of the securing means; and
communication means interconnecting the securing means and the controlling means and for enabling the controlling means to control operation of the securing means.
17. A system for use in an automated teller machine (ATM) having a lock and a safe which can be secured with the lock, the system comprising:
an ATM controller for controlling ATM functionality and operation of the lock to secure the safe.
18. A system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a secure communications link which interconnects the lock and the ATM controller to allow the ATM controller to control operation of the lock.
19. A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein (i) the secure communications link includes a decryptor that is provided in the safe, (ii) the ATM controller includes means for encrypting a control command and sending the encrypted command to the decryptor, and (iii) the decryptor includes means for decrypting the control command and passing the decrypted command to the lock.
20. A program storage medium readable by a computer having a memory, the medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for controlling a self-service machine having a lock and a secure enclosure that is securable using the lock, the method comprising the steps of:
controlling functionality of the self-service machine; and
controlling operation of the lock.